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SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" It is not the duty of Government to put down corruption when specific cases have been brought to their notice?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" Certainly. Not in this case but in other cases, it has always been the duty of Government to put down corruption."

Allotment of houses under Rent Control Act.

* 72 *Q*.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have prescribed any principles to govern priorities for the allotment of houses which came into their possession under section 3 of the Madras Rent Control Act;

(*b*) whether the question of 'essentiality' is a consideration in prescribing priorities and if so, how 'essentiality' has been defined;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that there have been complaints from their own officers that vacant houses are being allotted without any question of priority;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that many landlords do not intimate the fact of vacancy to the Collector and arrange to let in tenants by private arrangements;

(*e*) what steps are being taken to ensure the observance of law; and

(*f*) whether the Government propose to extend the scope of section 3 to all houses irrespective of rent paid and also include in priority for allotment all citizens on the lines of the Madras House Accommodation Order?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—"[a] (*a*) Yes. A copy of the rules is placed on the table of the House.

" (*b*) As the Act is intended to ensure accommodation for Government purposes and officers of Government the question 'essentiality' as amongst Government officers is governed by the principles laid down by the Government for the purpose.

" (*c*) No complaints of this nature have been received so far.

" (*d*) There have been six cases and the Collector of Madras is taking suitable action against the offenders.

" (*e*) Section 16 (1) of the Act provides for the punishment of the offenders under section 3 (1) of the Act. The Collectors have special revenue staff under them to check up vacancies of houses. Proposals to further amend the Act so as to ensure strict observance of law are under consideration, to provide for :—

(i) for prosecution of the landlord who even after intimating a vacancy, lets in someone else without the orders of the Government;

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 48, 49 infra.

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(ii) similar provision, when tenancy is continued in the same name but the actual tenant leaves and some one else comes in; and

(iii) providing also for the Government entering and taking possession of such building.

"(f) This was considered when the Bill was framed and it was decided to drop this question because of administrative difficulties."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I know with reference to the rules framed for the allotment of buildings for Government purposes whether there have been occasions when the control has been exercised by the Government? The rule reads: 'Subject to the control of the Provincial Government allotments are made by the Controller or under his orders'?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—"I cannot remember."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Have there been cases when the Provincial Government had to intervene as against the decision of the Controller?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—"There have been no cases."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Have the Government interfered when these rules have been applied in the case of non-officials and obtained priority for them?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—"I do not remember such cases."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—"Will the Hon. Minister say that under the Act when a house is reported as vacant and when that house is required for a non-official, what will be the position? Further, what is the position of a Legislator, is he styled an official or non-official? When he wants a house, should he apply to the Collector or to the Rent Controller?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—"So far the Government have made provision only for Government servants and Government officials. Otherwise it will be too difficult to administer the Act."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—"What is the position of a Legislator?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—"It cannot be exactly decided. It will depend upon the Government and so many other things. In the Government House there is some provision made for some Legislators. Regarding others, they must somehow manage for the time being."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—"What will be the position of a Legislator when he comes to Madras and wants to reside there with his family?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I do not see there is any provision in the Act for Legislators. So he need not pursue the question."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" Medical profession comes under Essential services, so will the Hon. Minister see his way to making suitable provision for procuring accommodation for doctors? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—" This question was not considered while drafting the Bill for accommodation for Government officers. Anyhow, the question can be considered."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1947-48.

Introductory. * THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" Sir, I rise to present to this House the revised estimates for the current year, 1946–7, and the budget estimates for the next year, 1947–8.

" Seven months only have elapsed since I presented the budget estimates for the current year under circumstances that necessitated the unusual procedure of introducing a budget nearly half-way through the year to which it related. We now return to the normal budgetary procedure of presenting the annual budget to the Legislature before the close of the previous year, and to the normal conditions under which the Government are fully responsible for the proposals embodied in the budget and for the policy underlying those proposals.

Political situation. " 2. Before proceeding to discuss the finances of the Province, I take leave to make a brief reference to the general political situation in the country. As a result of the earnest work of the Cabinet Mission sent by the British Government to this country early in 1946, plans were made both for setting up an Interim Government at the Centre to function as far as possible as a National Government and for framing the future constitution of this country on an agreed basis. The Interim Government comprising leading members of the two major political parties in the country and also representatives of the minority communities, is now functioning. A Constituent Assembly has also been formed consisting of representatives elected by the various Provincial Legislatures. The Assembly has already completed two sittings and carried out much preliminary work. Sub-committees for various purposes have been constituted. We may hope that the framing of a Constitution for India by the Constituent Assembly may be completed in the course of the year 1948. Though the representatives of one of the two major political parties now taking part in the Interim Government and the representatives of the Indian States have not yet joined the Constituent Assembly, it is our earnest hope that these representatives also will join the Assembly before long and help in its deliberations, so that the Constitution finally framed may obtain the ready consent of the whole country and be brought into force without serious difficulties.